

wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of a layer-structure clay mineral, phosphoric acid and phosphate.

A2 6. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the thickening agent is an inorganic clay mineral selected from the group consisting of saponite, montmorillonite, stevensite, hectorite, smectite, nacrite and sepiolite.

8. (Amended) The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the content of the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is 35% by weight or less.

9. (Amended) A method for bleaching a discolored tooth comprising applying the tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1 onto the surface of a discolored tooth and irradiating the applied surface with light.

Please add the following new claims to the application:

A4 --11. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 2, wherein the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, perborate,

percarbonate, persulfate, perphosphate, calcium peroxide, magnesium peroxide and urea peroxide.

12. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 11, wherein the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is hydrogen peroxide.

13. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 12, wherein the thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of a layer-structure clay mineral, phosphoric acid and phosphate.

14. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 12, wherein the thickening agent is an inorganic clay mineral selected from the group consisting of saponite, montmorillonite, stevensite, hectorite, smectite, nacrite and sepiolite.

15. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 13, wherein the phosphate is tetra-sodium pyrophosphate.

16. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 15, wherein the content of the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous

solution is 35% by weight or less.

17. A method for bleaching a discolored tooth comprising applying the tooth bleaching composition according to claim 16 onto the surface of a discolored tooth and irradiating the applied surface with light.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the wavelength of the irradiating light is 300 nm or longer.

19. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 14, wherein the content of the chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is 35% by weight or less.

20. A method for bleaching a discolored tooth comprising applying the tooth bleaching composition according to claim 19 onto the surface of a discolored tooth and irradiating the applied surface with light.--